



U.S. Embassy, Lusaka

CONSULAR COMMUNICATOR



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Message from the Consul by Rob Romanowski

It continues to be a remarkable time to be in Zambia. Even as political parties wrangle in the United States, two U.S. presidents from opposing parties met in neighboring Tanzania at a memorial for victims of the 1998 embassy bombings.

While it is probably fair to say that President Barack Obama and President George W. Bush do not share many of the same views on policy matters, their appearances in Africa do highlight a few points: first, that political transitions can be peaceful and post-election relations congenial, and second, that Africa, with six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world, is attracting

significant global and U.S. interest. For many of us in Zambia, with its vibrant economy and safe environment, the surge in global attention probably seems somewhat belated. The perceptions and interests appear to be fast-changing though. Former President Bush, after all, has visited Zambia three times since 2011, and I believe his parting words to Zambia were, "See you next year."

In this edition of the newsletter, we provide a snapshot of some recent embassy events and activities, including our Fourth of July reception which several of the wardens were able to attend, a *Bikes Across Borders* event that Vice Consul Brian Grand-

jean organized, and of course, former President Bush's visit and his meeting with local U.S. citizens in Livingstone.

Finally, with next quarter's newsletter, we will likely have in place new embassy leadership, as Deputy Chief of Mission Stephen Schwartz has departed Zambia and Ambassador Mark C. Storella is expected to depart later this year. Many of you have probably met them as they traversed Zambia on one of their many visits around the country. We would just like to express our appreciation for their support of U.S. citizens in Zambia and the embassy consular team.

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Former President Bush, Mrs Bush, and First Lady Dr Kaseba at the refurbished Mosi-oa-Tunya Clinic in Livingstone.



President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush Visit Livingstone

A small group of local resident U.S. citizens were treated to a very special breakfast on July 1 in honor of the visit to Zambia by former U.S. President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush who were in Livingstone to refurbish and open a cervical cancer clinic. The breakfast, provided by the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka and the David Livingstone Safari Lodge, was also attended by U.S. Ambassador Mark C. Storella and U.S. Embassy Vice Consul Brian Grandjean.

The intimate event gave guests an opportunity to interact with their fellow U.S. citizens– the Bushes– and to share their unique stories about living and working in Zambia. Guests also got to enjoy American-style pancakes and to hear all about the important, life-saving work that the Bush Institute continues to do in Zambia. Thanks to all who came and made President and Mrs. Bush feel welcome in Livingstone!



Former President George W. Bush speaks to U.S. citizen guests during a U.S. Embassy-hosted breakfast in Livingstone



Clockwise left to right: President and Mrs. Bush, Ambassador Storella, and local resident U.S. citizen guests meet for breakfast; Mrs. Laura Bush; President and Mrs. Bush depart Livingstone; U.S. Embassy Vice Consul Brian Grandjean and President George W. Bush

Happy Fourth of July!

This month marked the 237th anniversary of American independence. Although we have a lot of great American holidays, for me, the 4th of July in the United States has always been special. Back in the U.S. many of us enjoy the day by spending time with friends and family, and then trying to find that perfect spot to watch the evening fireworks display. It is a holiday that appeals to all generations. It is in the middle of the summer, school is out, and the weather is perfect for relaxing at the beach or playing Frisbee in the yard. There is no stress about finding the right gifts, you don't need a costume, and you certainly don't have to freeze to see a ball drop in New York City.

Most importantly, the Fourth of July binds all Americans together in a celebration of our shared heritage and values. It is in honor of the patriots who fought to secure liberty, freedom, and opportunity for their children and all future generations. It is a commemoration of the country that was forged after six long years of struggle and continues to be the strongest force for justice and peace in the world.

Last month the U.S. Embassy hosted our official Fourth of July celebration in Lusaka. Embassies and Consulates worldwide host a celebration to highlight American culture and values to a diverse audience of host government officials and other distinguished guests.

This year the event, which was largely funded by donations from leading American companies, was held on the Embassy grounds and was decorated with accents from rural America – denim, burlap, and picnic tables. During the event, Ambassador Mark C. Storella underscored the achievements of the U.S. – Zambia partnership and the value of a constructive relationship, remarking that, “We greatly value our sincere and open dialogue on human rights. We do not always agree. But we always keep talking.”

The evening had its own surprises as well. Zambia's First Republican President Dr. Kenneth D. Kaunda joined the American *Venture Moody Band* on stage for some guitar playing and singing, and fireworks concluded the event with a display that lit up the skies of Lusaka. While it wasn't quite the Fourth of July I remembered as a kid, it still showcased the best of America. – Rob Romanowski, Consul



Ambassador Storella looks on as First Republican President Dr. Kaunda takes the stage.



Fireworks light up the sky over the U.S Embassy

Upcoming Holidays:

Monday, August 5: Farmers Day
Monday, September 2: Labor Day
Monday, October 14: Columbus Day
Thursday, October 24: Zambian Independence Day

Bikes Across Borders Promotes Cross-Border Tourism

From May 20-23, U.S. Ambassadors to Zambia and Zimbabwe Mark C. Storella and Bruce Wharton embarked on a cross-border bike ride to promote international tourism, economic growth, and wildlife conservation in Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also participating in this fun and historic event were Miss USA Nana Meriwether, several Zambian and Zimbabwean youth ambassadors, and U.S. Embassy Vice Consul and event control officer Brian Grandjean.

The first part of this bicycle diplomacy tour included several key stops in Livingstone: Livingstone General Hospital, Nsongwe Women's Association, Livingstone Museum, and Big 5 Safaris. For the second part of the journey, the two Ambassadors led their bike delegations across the bridge into Zimbabwe for even more public events aimed at promoting cross-border tourism ahead of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) General Assembly co-hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe August 24-29, 2013.



Zambian youth ambassador Luyando "Lulu" Hangaala and Miss USA Nana Meriwether lead bikers through Livingstone



Clockwise left to right: U.S. Ambassadors Bruce Wharton and Mark Storella meet on Victoria Falls Bridge; Miss USA Nana Meriwether, Minister of Tourism & Arts Sylvia Masebo, and Ambassador Storella discuss wildlife conservation at Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park; Miss USA leads a volleyball clinic for Zambian youth at Holy Cross School; Miss USA meets Chief Mukuni at Mukuni Village

American Citizen Services Corner

FAQs Passports

How soon should I renew my passport before it expires?

You may renew your passport at any time before or after it expires.

My passport has already expired. I do not wish to apply for a new one. Can my passport be extended?

No. Passports are not extendable.

If I don't plan to travel back to the United States any time soon, why should I renew my passport now?

Four reasons:

The passport is proof of American citizenship. Every American abroad should have valid proof of his/her citizenship at all times.

Life is unpredictable. You never know when you may need to travel suddenly to the United States. The last thing you need to do in an emergency is worry about getting to the Embassy to get your or your child's passport renewed.

A valid passport is required for many Zambian administrative purposes and you do not want to get caught with an expired passport if you need to process an application for some benefit.

If you wait too long, adults cannot renew an expired passport by mail. You will have to apply in person and pay an extra fee.

Will I get my passport back when I renew it?

Yes. In nearly all cases, your old passport will be cancelled and returned to you with the new one. If we are not able to return your old passport for any reason, we will discuss this with you at the time of application.

Smart Traveler i-Phone Application



Smart Traveler, the official State Department app for U.S. travelers, invites you to see the world with easy access to frequently updated official country information, travel alerts, travel warnings, maps, U.S. embassy locations, and more.

To read reviews and access the free download please check out the following link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8>

Flu Season - Simple Ways to Protect Your Self

Taking these everyday actions can help prevent the spread of germs and protect against colds, flu, and other illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Be sure you are up-to-date with all of your shots and vaccinations, and if possible, see your healthcare provider at least 4-6 weeks before you travel to get any additional shots. Visit CDC's Traveler's Health website for more information on healthy travel
- If you are sick: cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, avoid contact with other people to keep from infecting them



Immigration Corner

Green Card Holders FAQ:

Question: I am a green card holder and am currently living and working in Zambia. How can I legally stay outside the United States for longer than 1 year without losing my status in the US?

Answer: The 'Re-entry Permit', which does allow for a stay of up to 2 years outside the United States for green card holders, can only be applied for and obtained from inside the United States. Questions related to maintaining your legal status in the US should be directed to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>), part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Immigration to the U.S.:

Many U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents inquire about how they can get a visa for their relatives to immigrate to the U.S. In the U.S., immigration issues are handled by Department of Homeland Security.

The first step to immigrating is for the U.S. citizen or green card holder to file a petition through USCIS in the United States. Relative petitions cannot be filed at the Embassy. The procedure is to submit the petition and payment through the Chicago lock-box. Petitioners do not need to be physically in the U.S. to file as petitions can be done via mail.

Once the petition is approved, it will be transferred to the Embassy, where the beneficiary will be interviewed by a Consular Officer. This process can take anywhere from 8 months to several years, depending on the relationship between the petitioner and the beneficiary. For more information on filing petitions, please visit the USCIS website at: www.uscis.gov.

DIVERSITY VISA 2015 SEASON

The Diversity Visa (DV) "Green Card" Lottery 2015 season runs from October until November 2013. If you know a Zambian national interested in applying for the Diversity Visa Lottery, please share these important tips with him/her:

- The official sources for Diversity Visa Lottery information are: www.dvlottery.state.gov and www.travel.state.gov.
- Minimum requirement for selection is either a high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education; OR two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform.
- Emails stating you have won the DV Lottery and asking for payment are fraudulent
- No fee is payable to enter the lottery or at any stage of the process, except at the U.S. Embassy, if you are selected for an immigrant visa interview.
- Read the instructions carefully before entering. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- Winning the DV Lottery does not guarantee that you will qualify for a U.S. immigrant visa. It simply gives you the opportunity to apply for the immigrant visa.